

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY
BURIAL ELIGIBILITY ACT

HON. TERRY EVERETT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, I strongly support H.R. 70, a bill to codify burial eligibility requirements for Arlington National Cemetery. This bill would also put an end to the abuses my subcommittee found with politically connected burial waivers for individuals who have been getting into Arlington and taking the places earned by America's war heroes.

Full Committee Chairman BOB STUMP moved a similar bill last year and it was not acted upon by the Senate. I commend our Chairman for his persistence and for his devotion to our Nation's veterans in moving H.R. 70 as one of his top priorities for the 106th Congress.

Veterans' service organization and military associations have overwhelmingly supported this legislation and especially its prohibition against waivers. They better than anyone know that politics should play no part in who rests in the hallowed ground of Arlington.

Mr. Speaker, apparently I differ with one of my colleagues on whether abuses occurred with Arlington burial waivers. At the January 28, 1999, Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on Arlington burial waivers, which I chaired, I stated that, "in my opinion, in some cases there undoubtedly has been favoritism, overwhelming pressure, political influence, string pulling, and arm twisting, as well as public relations consideration, even if no one will openly admit it." My view has not changed, and I believe these things were abuses. Call them what you may, they occurred and they should be stopped.

And, let there be no mistake about the matter of Larry Lawrence: he bought his way into Arlington with campaign contributions. His campaign contributions bought him an ambassadorship. His bought ambassadorship and his proven, not alleged, lies got him into Arlington. Even on his record, he was so miserably unqualified to be an ambassador that the Foreign Service Association took the unusual step of opposing his nomination. Money got him in, not his service to his country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to hold the line against waivers, just as our brave men and women in uniform have held the line in battle against the enemies of freedom.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTIONS
NEED TO BE AMONG OUR HIGHEST PRIORITIES

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of water quality, smart growth and protecting our environment—and, therefore, in support of the Democratic budget resolution.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Clean and safe drinking water must be among our highest national priorities. We need to ensure that we protect farmland, slow suburban sprawl and protect open spaces. Further, the Environmental Protection Agency must have the adequate tools and resources to do their job—protecting our environment.

That is why I support the Democratic budget resolution which would have provided \$1.6 billion more for natural resources and environmental programs than the Republican budget. Our bill allows for continued assistance to our communities to upgrade their sewer systems and wastewater treatment facilities. It also provides resources for our communities to protect farmland and preserve or restore green spaces. Our budget also provides grants for "smart growth" planning and park restoration.

For those of us in St. Clair and Macomb Counties who treasure the special place in which we live, the Democratic budget blueprint would allow us to preserve and improve our quality of life. That is among the most important things we can do.

In the months ahead, I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure that our water is safe to drink, our lakes are safe for swimming, and our continued growth is managed responsibly. I am also hopeful that our local and state officials will help us in our effort to help improve sewers and water treatment facilities, and to preserve farmland and open spaces.

Our environment is precious and valuable. We need to take steps today to ensure that it is preserved for our grandchildren to inherit. We will continue our fight to ensure that environmental protections are among our highest priorities.

ON THE PASSING OF THREE
EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 25, 1999

Ms. PELOSI. Ms. Speaker, it sometimes happens that the unexpected juxtaposition of disparate events imposes its own logic, and the emerging pattern rivets our attention and commands our respect. So it is with the recent passing of three extraordinary women: Frances Ross, who died December 9th at 84 years of age; Helen Feinberg, who followed on February 22nd, also 84; and Vivian Hallinan, who departed March 16th after 88 years of life. Of the same generation that was tempered in the Great Depression and triumphant in World War II, all three women shared many characteristics and values. All, of course, were native or adoptive Californians. And, in the trail-blazing spirit of the Golden State, all were true pioneers in their respective fields: Ross in the treatment of the mentally ill; Feinberg in nursing and human rights; and Hallinan in a wide range of progressive causes.

All three women exhibited, early in life, the qualities we associate with leadership. They were relentless champions of social justice, peace, equality, democracy, and freedom. And in the pursuit of those values, their perseverance was legendary. Finally, and perhaps

most impressive, Frances, Helen, and Vivian also shared the exquisite ability to balance an active life in the public domain with an equally impressive dedication to family and friends in the private realm.

In conclusion, Frances Ross, Helen Feinberg, and Vivian Hallinan were courageous leaders of a generation that is rapidly passing from our scene. We are losing a national treasure, and we should all pause to register our common loss. Details about the wonderful lives of these three women are included in the following tributes.

[From the San Francisco Examiner, Dec. 11, 1998]

FRANCES LILLIAN ROSS—ADVOCATE FOR
MENTALLY ILL

(By Eric Brazil)

Frances Lillian Ross, who pioneered residential treatment for the mentally ill in San Francisco, died Wednesday in San Rafael at age 83.

She had been in failing health for two-months, following a stroke at her Villa Marin home.

From 1965 through 1997, Mrs. Ross was executive director of Conard House, which developed the model for treating mentally ill patients in a non-institutional setting.

"She was instrumental in establishing what community mental health looks like in this town," said Steve Fields, executive director of the Progress Foundation.

Conrad House "was very, very much on the ground floor. It was one of the first models of a halfway house, if not the first," recalled psychiatrist Dr. Price Cobbs.

Born in San Diego, Mrs. Ross attended 13 grammar schools and three high schools—including Polytechnic in San Francisco—before graduating from San Francisco State.

Even before the '30s had ended Mrs. Ross had lived an eventful life—as a "girl cashier" at the World's Fair on Treasure Island, as Northern California campaign manager for winning Democratic gubernatorial candidate Culbert Olson and in organizing relief for Spanish civil war refugees.

During the early 1940s, she was a teacher and social worker in Central Valley migrant labor camps, including Marysville-Yuba City, where she met and married her late husband, Fred Ross, a community organizer, whose career—including the discovery of farm labor leader Cesar Chavez—became legendary.

Her youngest son, Fred, now chief of staff to Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-San Francisco, recalled that his mother taught birth control as well as drama and other subjects to wives of farm workers. He said, "Birth control was called 'baby spacing,' then, and one of the women asked her, 'Is that to teach us how to space them closer together or farther apart?'"

On the eve of World War II, Mrs. Ross worked to get refugee Jewish physicians out of Germany, and after the war began, she operated a drill press and worked for racial integration at a Cleveland airplane parts manufacturing plant, while her husband worked with Japanese Americans who had been relocated to the Midwest from the Pacific Coast.

At age 41, Mrs. Ross returned to San Francisco State and obtained a master's degree in clinical psychology.

Her professional career was interrupted by polio, and she was unable to work for nine years.

When Mrs. Ross was hired as executive director at Conard House—she had been a rehabilitation counselor at Lighthouse for the